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**United States Patent** [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,401,917****Yoshida et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 28, 1995**[54] **INPUT PEN ACCOMMODATION  
MECHANISM FOR TABLET INPUT  
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Japan**[73] **Assignee:** **Sony Corporation, Tokyo, Japan**[21] **Appl. No.:** **44,143**[22] **Filed:** **Apr. 7, 1993**[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... **G08C 21/00**[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **178/18; 345/179**[58] **Field of Search** ..... **178/15, 19, 20, 87;  
382/3; 345/179, 156, 901-903; 364/709.01,  
709.1, 709.11; D19/52, 35, 41, 45**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**D. 327,498 6/1992 Watson et al. .... D19/52  
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M. Shaw[57] **ABSTRACT**

An input pen accommodation mechanism for use with a tablet input apparatus. The mechanism comprises a pen accommodation part for accommodating an input pen for coordinate data input, and holding members for holding the input pen as accommodated in the pen accommodation part. The holding members are in elastic contact with the input pen. The pen accommodation part is constituted by a first concave portion and a second concave portion deeper than the first concave portion, the two portions being connected lengthwise. The holding members are located within the first concave portion so as to pinch the input pen sideways within the pen accommodation part.

**22 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**